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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/034,826

12/28/2001

Garrett Holmes

DKT 00054A
(BWI-00055)

1464

7590

08/20/2003

Patent Docket Administrator
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EXAMINER

DONOVAN, LINCOLN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2832

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,826

Applicant(s)

HOLMES ET AL.

Examiner

Donovan Lincoln

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of group I, claims 1-8 in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the multiple areas of search for all of the claimed inventions would have been necessitated by the claimed subject matter. This is not found persuasive because each claimed invention is directed towards structure and circuitry requiring differing considerations and search areas.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perach [US 4,538,645] in view of Hamilton et al. [US 5,707,039].

Regarding claim 1, Perach discloses a control valve assembly comprising:

- a housing [40] defining an internal chamber therein;
- an electromagnetic coil [22] wound on a bobbin [38] coaxially mounted within the housing;
- an axially movable armature [72], having first and second ends, mounted in the internal chamber;
- an actuation member [74] extending from the armature;

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- a pole piece [46] operably associated with the armature;
- a valve manifold [12] including control passages [16, 18];
- first and second valve seats [figure 3];
- a valve [66] positioned for selectively sealing on the first or second valve seats;
- a spring [76] for biasing the armature; and
- control means [column 5, line 57-column 6, line 14].

Perach discloses the instant claimed invention except for a flux tube partially surrounding the armature.

Hamilton et al. disclose a hydraulic solenoid having an armature [41] interacting with a flux tube [33].

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the flux tube design with the pole piece of Perach, as suggested by Hamilton et al., for the purpose of increasing activation force.

Regarding claims 2-3 and 6-7, The specific control functions, bias states and valve positioning would have been an obvious design consideration dependent upon the specific application of the hydraulic valve.

Claims 4-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perach, as modified, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Barkhimer et al. [US 5,752,689].

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Perach, as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the valve being a ball valve.

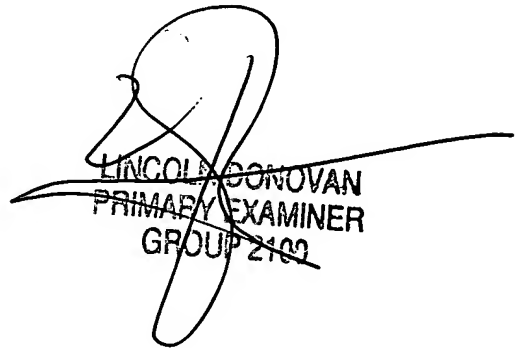
Barkhimer et al. disclose a solenoid valve assembly having a ball type valve.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use a ball type valve design of Barkhimer et al. for the valve of Perach, as modified, for the purpose of maintaining a superior seal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donovan Lincoln whose telephone number is 703 308-3111. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1920.

ldd
August 9, 2003


LINCOLN DONOVAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100